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he also emphasized the fact, often overlooked, that Napoleon's two disastrous campaigns, that of 1814 and that of Waterloo, were perhaps the most splendid in conception and execution of all. Further, while he deprecates that enormous appetite for dominion which blinded the great conqueror to the limitations of his position, and which in 1814 forbade him to yield while yielding might still have saved his throne, he yet finds in this an element of nobility often ignored in judging Napoleon's conduct in 1813 and 1814. "Even after La Rothière he might have retained empire if he would only give up 'the natural boundaries;' and he lost his crown in the quarrel of France."

Mr. Morris's freedom from patriotic prejudice is strikingly illustrated by his denunciation of the petty tyranny and cruel indignities put upon Napoleon by the English at St. Helena. He stigmatizes this treatment as a "blot on the fair fame of England." These are but a few samples of the admirable candor and honesty with which he writes, but they show that he possesses the prime requisite of the successful biographer, intelligent sympathy with his hero. Altogether the book is up to the high standard maintained by the series to which it belongs, the purpose of which was announced to be, to present "thoroughly trustworthy history" by means of "picturesque and dramatic stories of the men and of the events connected with them."

Ulysses G. Weatherly.

Cornell University.

A Short Historical English Grammar. By HENRY SWEET. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

Historical Outlines of English Syntax. By LEON KELLNER. London: Macmillan & Co.

Both of the above books should be in the hands of every teacher of English, especially in secondary schools. English grammar has fallen into disrepute, largely because it has been taught with far too narrow knowledge of the subject. For the most part logical grammar only has had a place in the schools, historical grammar; much more comparative grammar, being totally disregarded, yet logical grammar is constantly bringing its advocate into error, because language is not formed wholly on logical principles but is a growth, a development, and can be fully understood only by taking into account its historical relations. With some knowledge of historical grammar we believe the subject might be made interesting to beginners and profitable to no small degree. The books before us if carefully studied will give teachers some idea of the historical relations of English.

It is true that Dr. Henry Sweet's book cited above will not seem to most readers easy, and it is not in its arrangement or in its statement of fact all that could be desired. Many will be some-

what estranged by its novel nomenclature, while others will at first sight be repelled by the citation of Old and Middle English forms. Yet if those who wish to master the subject will patiently and carefully work through this book they will appreciate the historical method in dealing with language, and will acquire no inconsiderable body of facts capable of constant use in explaining the forms of our English speech. The volume consists of chapters on the history of English, (very brief), Phonology, or the sounds of the language (pp. 14-71), Accidence (pp. 72-207), Composition and Derivation (pp. 208-260). Under Accidence, which makes up the largest and most important part of the book, each part of speech as noun, adjective, pronoun, is traced through Old, Middle, and Modern English, the natural development as well as the peculiar forms being accounted for.

It is unfortunate sometimes that important points are omitted, as for instance gender in modern English, while the treatment of other parts, as the relative pronouns, is far from complete. Yet these are minor points in a book excellent on the whole, and the only one that can be considered up to the times.

The second book we review treats English syntax historically, so that the two volumes supplement each other. In the preface Dr. Kellner tells us that this book "is intended to accompany the *Historical Outlines of English Accidence* by Dr. Morris. The latter, however, while still a valuable book for reference, was much more nearly abreast of the times twenty years ago than it is to-day, so that it will no doubt be largely superseded by this later book of Dr. Sweet.

The *Outlines of English Syntax* is made up of an introduction on the object of syntax and some principles on which it is based; three parts on the syntax of the sentence, the syntax of the parts of speech, the order of words; finally a summary or conclusion on the periods of English syntax and the foreign influences affecting our language. The same importance is to be attributed to the historical method of treating syntax as in treating sounds or accidence. Here again historical relations are to be considered beside logical relations, as shown by numerous examples in this book. Dr. Kellner fully appreciates that he has made only a beginning on a much neglected subject, but that beginning is to be highly commended and the book will prove, we are sure, of great value to all students of English. When teachers have learned to appreciate the facts contained in both these books, we may hope that English grammar will be no longer a dry-as-dust following of parsing formulas, but an investigation of linguistic facts appealing to the interest of all pupils.

Oliver Farrar Emerson.